(b) and (c) Besides the Mechanized Coal Handling Facilities at a cost of Rs. 831.11 crores the following three schemes are under implementation in Paradip Port which will enhance the cargo handling facilities at Paradip Port.

(i) Construction of Oil Berth including reception facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 crores.

(ii) Construction of 2nd multipurpose cargo berths at an estimated cost of Rs. 26.17 crores.

(iii) Construction of Western Quay at an estimated cost of Rs. 36.22 crores.

Slowdown in the Export of Steel

*7. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a slowdown in our steel exports recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the series of anti-dumping actions initiated by US and Canada has been one of the reasons for this slowdown;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to increase our steel exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The

details of exports of saleable steel during the past few years are given below:

Year	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)	Growth (%)
1997-98	18.78	—
1998-99	19.45	3.56%
1999-2000	29.98	54.%
2000-01	28.62	−4.53%

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. US Government had initiated anti dumping and countervailing investigations in 1999 against the exports of cut-to-length (CTL) carbon steel plates to USA during the Calendar year 1998. An anti dumping duty (ADD) of 72.49% and countervailing duty (CVD) 12.82% was imposed on 14.12.1999. As a result, the exports of CTL plates to USA have declined from 120670 metric tonnes in 1997-98 and 82104 tonnes in 1998-99 to nil in 1999-2000 and 2000-01. Canada imposed ADD of 14.9% (on weighted average) and anti subsidy duty of 13.1% on exports of hot rolled carbon steel plates from India on 29.5.2000. Consequently, the exports of this product have declined from 14543 MT in 1997-98 and 19575 MT in 1998-99 to nil in 1999-2000 and 2000-01. On 13/24.4.2001 USA announced preliminary CVD ranging from 8% to 34% and ADD ranging from 34%-37% on exports of HR products from India. Canada has also announced preliminary ADD of 12.9% and CVD ranging from Rs. 1138 to Rs. 4309 per MT on 19.4.2001. These have adversely affected exports of HR products to USA and Canada recently. The long term impact of the latest ADD/CVD action against HR products by USA and Canada can be assessed only after the final determination is made in this case.

(c) A number of steps have been taken to increase our exports. These, *inter alia,* include:

▷Rationalisation of DEPB rates

▷Setting up of the Steel Exporters' Forum to remove bottlenecks in the steel exports.

▷Exploring/consolidating new/non--traditional markets.

▷Maximising exports to neighbouring countries.

▷Attempting to increase range of export products-wider range of products/sizes/grades.

▷Cosntesting trade cases for re-opening major traditional markets for our steel exports.

MoU between Management and the Workers' Union of BALCO

*8. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Management and the Workers' Union of the Bharat Aluminium Corporation for calling off their over two months long strike;

(b) if so, the terms of the agreement; and

(c) the steps since taken and being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient points of the Memorandum of Understanding are as follows:—

(i) Withdrawal of disciplinary action against employees agitating in connection with disinvestment in BALCO.

(ii) Advance payment of amount equal to two months "take home" salary to the employees, which will be considered for adjustment on receipt of subsequent orders from Supreme Court in this matter.